

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

January 21, 2010

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretaries Clinton and Gates:

I am writing to urge you to support a request by Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to provide transportation to Haiti for University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) trauma care teams to assist the Saint Francois de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Saint Francois de Sales hospital provides care to over 2.5 million people in its surrounding communities.

For years, the University of Maryland Medical Center has partnered with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to deliver sorely needed care for HIV and AIDS patients in Haiti. The partnership included a support agreement with the Saint Francois de Sales Hospital in Port-au-Prince, which was heavily damaged in the recent earthquake and is struggling to meet the needs of Haitians whose lives were shattered by the recent earthquake. CRS has maintained a mission in Haiti for over 50 years and has a permanent staff of over more than 300 in place. In the aftermath of last week's quake in Haiti used their extensive network to distribute thousands and food and hygiene kits to displaced Haitians. As you know, there is a severe shortage of critical care services to treat vast numbers of injured Haitians, many with severe crush wounds and head trauma that will prove life threatening if not treated soon. CRS and the Saint Francois de Sales Hospital have asked the UMMC to provide shock trauma services at the hospital to help them meet the overwhelming need they are experiencing.

I ask that you do everything in your power to identify an air transport asset that can move about 20 UMMC shock trauma personnel and their equipment to Haiti. As Governor O'Malley stated in his letter, the Maryland Air National Guard is ready and willing to perform this mission.

I thank you for your leadership in this very trying time of sudden, massive human suffering and need in Haiti. I know you are both personally involved in this relief effort. I am intensely proud of the sacrifice and dedication shown by our military as well as our diplomatic and aid communities to help our neighbors in Haiti. I believe the contribution of the UMMC shock trauma teams would be a valuable addition to the critical care effort in Haiti and would save many lives. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator